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WATER AND WASTEWATER BASELINE REPORT

The Planning and Economic Development Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendation contained in the following report dated August 26, 2008, from the Commissioner of Planning and Development Services and the Commissioner of Environmental Services:

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

1. The Regional Clerk forward copies of the document titled “Water and Wastewater Baseline Report” to the Clerks of the local municipalities.

2. PURPOSE

This report has been prepared to inform the Committee and Council on the Water and Wastewater Baseline Report. The report outlines the existing Regional water and wastewater systems; establishes the starting point in the assessment of water and wastewater systems to service existing and projected development. It also establishes the base infrastructure condition to be used in developing hydraulic models for both systems.

3. BACKGROUND

Water & Wastewater Master Plan Update addresses new Provincial Initiatives and Growth Targets

In 2006 York Region commenced both the Transportation and Water & Wastewater Master Plan Update studies in the context of changes in growth and planning as a result of provincial initiatives. These provincial initiatives include the Province’s Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, Greenbelt Plan, and new population and employment targets. The Baseline Report, completed as part of the Water & Wastewater Master Plan Update, responds to public interest and requests to define the existing infrastructure.

Four background reports were prepared as part of the Water & Wastewater Master Plan Update. They are:

1. Sustainability Strategy - Develops the framework for the water and wastewater sustainability strategy.

2. Unit Rates – Presents projected water consumption rates and wastewater generation rates.
3. Policy and Criteria – Documents the water and wastewater policies, responsibilities, jurisdictions and criteria for York Region Water & Wastewater systems.
4. Baseline Report – Outlines the existing Regional water and wastewater systems; establishes the starting point in the assessment of water and wastewater systems to service the existing and projected development; and establishes the base condition for infrastructure for hydraulic models for both systems.

The Sustainability Strategy was presented to Council on April 9, 2008. Unit Rates was brought to Council on June 11, 2008. The Baseline Report as well as Policy and Criteria items are now communicated to Council for receipt.

As part of the review, we have worked closely with Environmental Services staff to ensure the process and the final report are acceptable.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

Current Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

The Baseline Report has been prepared to summarize the existing water and wastewater systems. It establishes the baseline or starting point in the assessment of the water and wastewater systems to service existing and projected development. The report also provides an understanding of the scope of the water and wastewater projects that are currently in various stages of planning or construction. Due to its length the Table of Contents for the full report is attached (*Attachment 1*) to provide information on the report outline. The full report will be posted on the York Region website.

The Water and Wastewater Baseline report establishes the base condition for infrastructure to be used as input to the water and wastewater the hydraulic models for water and wastewater systems. Where possible, the condition of the existing infrastructure will be taken into consideration in future expansion.

Water Sources, Treatment and Water Distribution System

Most of York Region's potable water supply comes from Lake Ontario (83%) through the City of Toronto and the Region of Peel, with a small portion obtained from Lake Simcoe and local wells located generally in the north (17%). The York Water System (YWS) presently provides surface water to Markham, Richmond Hill, and Vaughan. The YWS has been expanded into parts of Aurora and Newmarket to supplement the groundwater supplies in that area. The communities of Keswick, Georgina are serviced from surface water supply from Lake Simcoe. Communities of Sharon/Queensville,

Holland Landing, Stouffville, Kleinburg, Nobleton, Schomberg, King City, Mount Albert, Ballantrae, Ansnorveldt are serviced by groundwater supply.

The Water and Wastewater Baseline report summarizes the current regulatory requirements that govern water treatment and distribution systems.

The Region's Wastewater Treatment and Collection System are detailed in the Baseline Report

Newmarket, Aurora, Richmond Hill, Vaughan, Markham and Stouffville are serviced by the York Durham Sewage System (YDSS). The YDSS consists of a series of gravity sewers, pumping stations, forcemains and the Duffin Creek Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP), which was first constructed by the Province of Ontario in the late 1970s and early 1980s to eliminate the environmental impacts associated with several sewage treatment plants discharging to local rivers and to address the needs of proposed development in York and Durham Regions.

Wastewater systems servicing the northern communities in York Region include seven WPCPs located in Schomberg, Holland Landing, Keswick, Sutton, Mount Albert, Kleinburg, and Nobleton (in 2009).

The Water and Wastewater Baseline report summarizes the current regulatory requirements that govern wastewater treatment and collection systems.

YDSS system overview, history and ongoing and planned projects are described, including the Bathurst Collector/Langstaff Trunk Sewer, 16th Avenue Trunk Sewer, YDSS Interceptor Sewer, and Upper YDSS Trunk Sewer. Finally, an inventory of all the water and wastewater facility assets is presented, including facility condition assessment and estimated facility replacement value indexed to 2008.

Water and Wastewater Baseline Report is done as part of the Master Plan Update

The water and wastewater Baseline Report provides a foundation for the current Water & Wastewater Master Plan Update. Servicing alternatives will be assessed using this information and will be reported to Council in the fourth quarter of 2008 as part of the Preferred Alternative and Public Consultation Process report.

Relationship to Vision 2026

Goals set by Vision 2026 include having an Enhanced Environment, Heritage and Culture, and providing Infrastructure for a Growing Region. The action areas of these goals are: Ensuring Clean Water and Air; Promoting Conservation; and Ensuring Water

for Our Future. In evaluating the water and wastewater baseline, this report is one step in promoting these goals. This report is therefore consistent with the priorities previously set by Vision 2026.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This report does not have any direct financial impacts to either the Region or the local municipalities. The cost of this study is covered under the budget for the Water and Wastewater Master Plan Update.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

The Baseline Report provides information on the Regional water and wastewater systems sustainability. The local municipalities benefit from this report by having information on the Regional sustainable infrastructure.

7. CONCLUSION

The Region has established the base condition in the assessment of water and wastewater infrastructure through the release of the Baseline Report. This report assists staff in assessing the current Regional water and wastewater systems and in planning for future systems.

For more information on this report, please contact Paul May, Director, Infrastructure Planning at (905) 830-4444, Ext. 5029.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(The attachment referred to in this clause is included with this report.)